

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 6017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR SZ

SUBJC BIOGRAPHIC DATA: NEW FEDERAL COUNCILOR PIERRE AUBERT

1. PIERRE AUBERT WAS ELECTED TO SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL DEC 7, 1977 AND BECOMES CHIEF OF POLITICAL DEPT, EQUIVALENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, JAN 1978, REPLACING PIERRE GRABER WHO RESIGNED. AUBERT SERVED TEN YEARS ON CANTONAL COUNCIL OF NEUCHATEL BEFORE BEING ELECTED TO COUNCIL OF STATES IN 1971 AS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST PARTY. HIS ELECTION WITH 190 VOTES OUT OF 244 IN A JOINT SESSION OF SWISS PARLIAMENT WAS BY LARGEST MAJORITY FOR A FEDERAL COUNCILOR IN RECENT MEMORY.

2. EARLY LIFE AND CAREER: BORN IN LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, NEUCHATEL CANTON, MARCH 3, 1927, AUBERT ATTENDED SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LAUSANNE AND UNIVERSITY IN NEUCHATEL FROM WHICH RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE IN 1953. HE HAS MAINTAINED A PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE IN LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS. AUBERT HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF NEUCHATEL SECTION OF SWISS TOURING CLUB (TCS), MEMBER OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE OF NEUCHATEL BAR ASSN, PRESIDENT OF GOVERNING BOARD OF UNIV OF NEUCHATEL, AND PRESIDENT OF SWISS-ISRAELI SOCIETY.

3. HIS POLITICAL CAREER BEGAN AS MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL OF LA CHAUX DE FONDS FROM 1960-1968. AUBERT
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SERVED ON NEUCHATEL CANTONAL COUNCIL FROM 1961-1975 AND AS ITS PRESIDENT 1969-1970. FROM 1974-1977 AUBERT WAS AN ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASBOURG. A DEDICATED EUROPEAN, HE BELIEVES THAT IN ITS PRESENT FORM COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS EXCELLENT FORUM IN WHICH NEUTRAL SWITZERLAND ENJOYS FLEXIBILITY IN COORDINATING POLICIES WITH NEIGHBORS. AUBERT

SUPPORTS ISRAEL. HOWEVER, WHILE SERVING ON A COMMISSION FOR COUNCIL OF EUROPE HE HAD OPPORTUNITY MEET DIPLOMATS FROM MANY ARAB COUNTRIES, AND HE HAS STRESSED NEED FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONCESSIONS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S NOV 1977 PEACE INITIATIVE.

4. PERSONAL DATA: AUBERT AND HIS WIFE, ANNE-LISE, ENJOY TENNIS AND ALPINE SKIING IN CANTON OF VALAIS WHERE THEY OWN A CHALOT. WITH A SECRETARIAL DEGREE AND WORK EXPERIENCE IN A WATCH FACTORY, MRS. AUBERT DESCRIBES HERSELF AS A "VERY LUCKY HOUSEWIFE" WHO ENJOYS PREPARING HER HUSBAND'S FAVORITE FOOD, SPAGHETTI, IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS. DAUGHTER VERONIQUE (21) STUDIES PHILOSOPHY AND HISTORY AT UNIV IN NEUCHATEL AND SON, FRANCOIS, IS SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT IN NEUCHATEL.

5. A MAN OF VARIED CULTURAL INTERESTS, AUBERT IS AN ELOQUENT SPEAKER. FLUENT IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN, IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE PREFERS USING EVEN HIS LIMITED ENGLISH TO SPEAKING GERMAN.
WARNER

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